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April 25, 1902

The introduction, with the necessary modifications, of a clause such as this into a general vaccination act would be very valuable.

4. It is deserving of careful consideration whether stations for the preparation of vaccine should not be established under government supervision in some of the larger provincial centers. There are good reasons for such a course.

5. With regard to the much-discussed clause in the act of 1898 as to exemption of conscientious objectors from penalties, the medical officer would again take occasion to point out that the object which the royal commission had in view in suggesting such a clause was that vaccination would be facilitated. The carefully expressed views of the royal commission upon this subject must command themselves, at least to the extent of insuring a fair and liberal trial to the proposal. The medical officer having carefully considered the clause and its result, doubts whether it is productive of any good which can be weighed in the balance against the risk to which the unvaccinated children are exposed. It can not be denied that conscientious objections to legal requirements are not confined to the subject of vaccination only, yet the law has not dealt with the objector so tenderly in other circumstances.

It may be urged, however, that the conscientious objectors to vaccination are numerically so insignificant as to be negligible. The obvious unsoundness of such a proposition as this needs no illustration.

The section does derive importance from the mistaken impression which it is apt to give that the legislature shares some at least of the responsibility of depriving children of the protection from smallpox which vaccination affords. Nothing is farther from the intention of the royal commission than this—as may be inferred from the following paragraph in their report:

"After careful consideration and much study of the subject, we have arrived at the conclusion that it would conduce to increased vaccination if a scheme could be devised which would preclude the attempt (so often a vain one) to compel those who are honestly opposed to the practice to submit their children to vaccination, and at the same time leave the law to operate, as at present, to prevent children remaining unvaccinated owing to the neglect or indifference of the parent."

E. W. HOPE.

Report from Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND, April 5, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to state that for the week ended April 5, 1902, there were reported to the local health authorities, 4 cases of smallpox, 1 of which was imported from New York; enteric fever, 14; scarlet fever, 78; diphtheria, 15, and measles, 14.

On April 4, 1902, I visited the steamship *Sachem*, of the Warren Line, and vaccinated those of the officers, crew, and cattlemen who had not been recently successfully vaccinated.

Respectfully,

CARROLL FOX,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report from London.

LONDON, ENGLAND, April 4, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended March 29, there were issued from this office 6 bills of health and on the boats obtaining them 168 persons were vaccinated. In one instance the crew had been vaccinated by the companies' surgeon. The smallpox situation remains about the same.

Respectfully,

A. R. THOMAS,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.